

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A data management method for managing original data, first derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the data management method comprising the steps of:

generating first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data;

attaching the first link information and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information thereof;

generating second link information for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A data management apparatus for managing original data, first derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the data management apparatus comprising:

first link information generation means for generating first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data;

first information attaching means for attaching the first link information and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information;

second link information generation means for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

second information attaching means for attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium storing thereon a program for causing a computer to execute steps of managing original data, first derivative data

which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the program comprising the steps of:

generating first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data;

attaching the first link information and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information thereof;

generating second link information for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first accompanying information is inseparably attached to each of the original data and the first derivative data, and

the second accompanying information is inseparably attached to each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data.

6. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the editing processing includes at least one of:

copying to generate the first derivative data that have exactly the same content as the original data;

copying to generate the second derivative data that have exactly the same content as the first derivative data;

processing to obtain the first derivative data by modifying the original data;

processing to obtain the second derivative data by modifying the first derivative data;

image processing on the original data to generate the first derivative data in the case where the original data are image data; and

image processing on the first derivative data to generate the second derivative data in the case where the first derivative data are image data.

7. (Currently Amended) The data management method, as defined in Claim 6, wherein the ~~copying processing to generate the first derivative data~~ includes not only the a process for sending the original data from a computer having the original data to another computer, but also the a process for sending the first derivative data from a computer having the first derivative data to another computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The data management method, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the ~~copying processing includes not only the process for sending the original data from a computer having the original data to another computer~~ is connected to the other computer to

which the original data is sent through one of a network and a serial connection, but also the process for sending the first derivative data from a and the computer having the first derivative data to another computer is connected to the other computer to which the first derivative data is sent through one of the network and the serial connection.

9. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 8, wherein the network includes one of a LAN and a WAN such as the Internet.

10. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein

the first link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to the original data from the first derivative data and to directly or indirectly refer to the first derivative data from the original data, and

the second link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to the first derivative data from the second derivative data and to directly or indirectly refer to the second derivative data from the first derivative data.

11. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 10, wherein

the first link information attached to the original data includes the name of the first derivative data, and wherein the first link information attached to the original data further

includes at least one of a location of the first derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof;

the first link information attached to the first derivative data includes the name of the original data, and wherein the first link information attached to the first derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the original data and a pointer indicating the location thereof;

the second link information attached to the first derivative data includes the name of the second derivative data, and wherein the second link information attached to the first derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the second derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof; and

the second link information attached to the second derivative data includes the name of the first derivative data, and wherein the second link information attached to the second derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the first derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 11, wherein the pointer is the URL of:

the original data in the case where the original data are stored in a Web server;

the first derivative data in the case where the first derivative data are stored in a Web server; and

the second derivative data in the case where the second derivative data are stored in a Web server.

13. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first accompanying information is attached to each of the original data and the first derivative data by using one of a method of describing the first accompanying information in the header information in each of the original data and the first derivative data, a method of describing the first accompanying information in tag information of each of the original data and the first derivative data if the original data and the first derivative data are image data, and a method of writing the first accompanying information generated according to XML in a predetermined area of each of the original data and the first derivative data, and

the second accompanying information is attached to each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data by using one of a method of describing the second accompanying information in the header information of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data, a method of describing the second accompanying information in the tag information of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data if the first derivative data and the second derivative data are image data, and a method of writing the second accompanying information generated according to XML in a predetermined area of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating third link information for linking the original data and said second derivative data and third editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate said second derivative data from the original data, and

attaching the third link information and the third editing information to the original data and said second derivative data as third accompanying information thereof.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (New) A data management method for managing original data and derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being generated through editing processing on the original data, the data management method comprising the steps of:

generating link information for linking the original data and the derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing; and

attaching the link information and the editing information to the original data and the derivative data as accompanying information thereof, wherein

the link information attached to the original data represents the location of the derivative data, and

the link information attached to the derivative data represents the location of the original data.